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Plutonium car pros and cons

With that half life you can't beat the mileage — but on the other hand, it tends to attract supervillains **PAGE 32**

COUPLE MARRIES, COUPLE MEDALS

CANADIAN JOINS HER NEW U.S. HUBBY ON PODIUM AT TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS **PAGE 25**



Mill Woods fire was deliberate: Investigators

Custom home gutted. Father says his family is physically fine, but emotionally raw



ANNALISE KLINGBEIL
annalise.klingbeil@metronews.ca

Nineteen years ago Mohammed Atique, his wife and their two daughters — ages five and three — moved into the family's "dream home."

That dream ended in flames early Monday morning. The family escaped safely, watching as a fire, which investigators say was deliberately set, consumed their Mill Woods residence.

glass breaking. He quickly roused his daughters and her boyfriend.

"I ran quickly into the hallway, banged on the doors ... and said, 'Get the hell out of there,'" he said.

After his family — except for their cat, which remains missing — escaped the flames, Atique pounded on the windows of his basement and made sure his tenants left the home.

Investigators said the fire caused an estimated \$1.2 million in damages to Atique's home and also affected two neighbouring residences.

Michael Tucker, spokesperson for Edmonton Fire Rescue, said that while investigators are continuing to work on the file, "definitive

Arson

1/3

About a third of all fires in the city are deliberately set, according to a spokesperson from Edmonton Fire Rescue.

the fire department. You think of the risk that the people in the home were put (into), the neighbours ... even the risk for firefighters. It's a significant concern," he said.

Atique said he believes the fire started near the home's main entrance and was not surprised when investigators told him it was arson.

"It's crazy. I suspected it (was arson) because there's no way a fire would start outside just like that," he said.

The father said 19 years ago he worked with contractors to ensure everything in the home, from the placement of the bedrooms to the cabinets and light fixtures, was exactly as he wanted.

"There are too many memories in this house. There's way too many," said Atique, standing in front of the remnants on Tuesday.

Atique said he will rebuild a second dream home in the same spot where the first one burned down.

A million moments

"There are way too many memories in this house. There's way too many."

Homeowner Mohammed Atique

A total of 13 people — five in Atique's house, four in the basement suite he rented out and four neighbours — escaped the inferno without injuries.

Atique said he and his wife woke up to what they initially thought was hail or

evidence" allowed officials to quickly conclude it was arson.

Tucker said deliberately set fires represent about a third of all fires in Edmonton.

"Arson is one of the biggest ongoing problems for



Mohammed Atique's home burned down on Monday in a fire that investigators say was deliberately set. ANNALISE KLINGBEIL/METRO

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Alta. health exec

Little chance to recover extravagant expenses: Report

It appears that Alberta taxpayers are out of luck when it comes to getting back any money that was improperly spent by health executives.

Health Minister Fred Horne said Tuesday that a legal opinion on the matter suggests such attempts would prove futile.

"The legal opinion states clearly that under the Limitations Act, AHS cannot recover claims that are more than two years old," Horne said in a news release.

"The legal opinion also states that the chances of a successful lawsuit in such cases would be minimal. Our government doesn't want to see hard-earned taxpayers' money wasted on legal actions that have little chance of success."

Horne noted Progressive Conservative Premier Alison Redford's government has already taken action to tighten up accountability rules to make sure improper claims are not approved in the future.

Horne asked for the legal opinion this spring after a number of embarrassing expense accounts of former health executives came to light.

One of the audits found that AHS chief financial officer Allaudin Merali, while the chief financial officer for Weatherill at Capital Health, had racked up almost \$370,000 in questionable expenses.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Supt. Kevin Galvin speaks with reporters about the seizure of a local man's vehicle. Police used civil forfeiture legislation to take it. RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

Police seize vehicle in road-rage case

Civil forfeiture. First time law has been used in road-rage case

An Edmonton man is without his car after police used civil forfeiture laws to seize it, after an investigation into repeated road-rage incidents.

In a first-of-its-kind case, police also pressed criminal charges against the driver. Police released few details about the case, but said there was a string of dangerous behaviour behind the wheel.

"I can't give you a lot of information because the case is before both courts, but we investigated nine specific road-rage incidents in two years," said Edmonton police Supt. Kevin Galvin.

Galvin declined to identify the driver, the vehicle that was seized or the charges that were laid criminally.

Karl Wilberg, a prosecutor with Alberta Justice, said they have used the civil forfeiture law before to seize hundreds of vehicles, but up until now it has been primarily in drug cases.

He said the forfeitures bring

in money to the system that is used to compensate victims, but generally they're looking to keep the community safe.

"Sometimes even if we are not going to make any money we will just do it anyway. We will take the property to improve community safety," he said.

Galvin said the legislation has been an important tool in keeping the community safe and he's open to using it in other situations if he thinks there are grounds.

"From my perspective, if it fits within the parameters of violence reduction and I can

Forfeiture law

The forfeiture of the man's vehicle is temporary until a hearing in September, when it could be made permanent, if Alberta Justice successfully makes the case to a judge.

- The man is being held in custody on the criminal charges.

meet the criminal threshold and the civil court threshold. I will consider it," he said.

RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

Heritage Fest. Edmonton impresses Food Bank with number of donations

Edmontonians donated "an astonishing" 60,041 kilograms of food, \$63,228.21 in cash and a record \$60,054.75 in unused food tickets to Edmonton's Food Bank during the annual Heritage Festival.

"Each year by summer, our shelves are looking bare. Oftentimes we must make significant food purchases to replenish supplies to meet the needs for our hamper program. It is wonderful to see our shelves stocked again,"

Where it goes

14K

The number of people the Food Bank assists every month with food hampers

said Mark Doram, director of operations, in a press release.

Approximately 44 per cent of the Edmonton Food Bank's clients are children.

METRO

Basement suite

Deaths of man, woman likely not criminal: Police

The deaths of a 56-year-old man and 54-year-old woman who were found in a basement suite in north-east Edmonton Monday evening are believed to be non-criminal. In a release, police said autopsies showed no signs of injury, though toxicological testing will still be done. The bodies were discovered after officers were called to check on the welfare of residents at the house. METRO

Yellowhead Trail. Repairs to be complete Wednesday morning

Repairs will be complete on westbound Yellowhead Trail lanes between 127 Street and 142 Street by 9 a.m. Wednesday morning, the city announced in a news release issued Tuesday afternoon.

"The City of Edmonton greatly appreciates the patience demonstrated by commuters while repairs were being done," reads the release.

The repairs, which caused traffic to be reduced to one lane, were needed after a se-



Yellowhead Trail repairs METRO

vere thunderstorm and downpour caused the asphalt to break up and buckle in some places Sunday night. METRO

1 NEWS

Pioneering café hops aboard Bitcoin bandwagon



Self-described Bitcoin evangelist Peter Dushenski uses the digital currency to buy a coffee at Remedy Café.
ANNALISE KLINGBEIL/METRO

E-money. Remedy an early adopter of online currency

An eccentric Edmonton café has become the first retailer in Alberta to accept the decentralized digital currency Bitcoin.

When self-described Bitcoin evangelist Peter Dushenski approached So-hail Zaidi, the owner of Edmonton's Remedy Café, to talk about Bitcoin, Zaidi immediately decided his stores should start accepting the currency.

He bought three iPads — one for each of his Remedy locations — and brought Dushenski in to help train staff on how to use the devices to accept the currency, which exists entirely online.

"Someone has to start. ... I always like to try things. Nobody else is doing it," said Zaidi, who is known to his customers simply as Zee.

101

Bitcoin is a decentralized digital currency that can be transferred through a computer or smartphone.

Zaidi said accepting Bitcoin has brought new customers through his doors, and also drawn questions from existing patrons who see the café's Bitcoin signs and wonder what they're all about.

Dushenski said the union of Remedy and the currency, which is not regulated by any financial institutions, is a natural fit.

"I saw a cultural alignment. Bitcoin is being accepted earliest by true innovators and people who are entrepreneurs, people who are self-made," he said.

When Dushenski first heard about Bitcoin more than a year ago, the currency was worth about \$1 Canadian. Today, one Bitcoin is worth nearly \$100, Dushenski said.

"This is early days. ... This is really just getting started. It could very well be the biggest idea of our generation," he said.

Dushenski believes other Edmonton businesses would be wise to start accepting Bitcoin.

"This is the way forward. ... Edmonton could really position itself as a global leader in this space."

Dushenski is planning a Bitcoin conference in Edmonton, scheduled for sometime in November.

ANNALISE KLINGBEIL/METRO

Civic election

Challengers keep away from incumbent wards

While election signs will have to practically be hammered in on top of each other in some city neighbourhoods this fall, other wards seem set to have no contest at all.

Based on declared candidates to date, incumbents Ed Gibbons in Ward 4, Amarjeet Sohi in Ward 12, Ben Henderson in Ward 8 and Bryan Anderson in Ward 9 won't be facing a challenger in the coming election.

University of Alberta political scientist Jim Lightbody says he's not surprised candidates have flocked to the wards without incumbents. He says long-serving incumbents would be very difficult to beat.

"You really have to work hard to lose," he said. "If you go back to the last results, a guy like Sohi or Anderson would have won with about 70 per cent."

Sohi says he is not sure if he will have a challenger come nomination day, but regardless he plans to campaign.

"They deserve to know what you are going to offer for the next four years," said Sohi. "It is very important to me to be out there and talking to people."

RYAN TUMILTY/METRO



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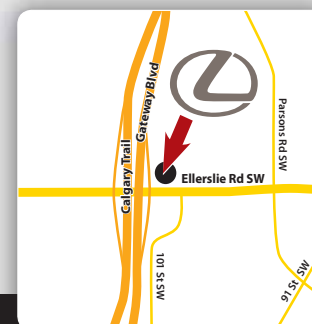


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Illness suspected. Male penguin dies at Calgary Zoo

Officials at the Calgary Zoo are waiting for the results of a post-mortem examination to determine what led to the death of a three-year-old Humboldt penguin.

Curator Malu Celli said keepers noticed the penguin, named Guillermo, wasn't eating and wasn't very active on Saturday.

She said the males have just gone through moulting (the process of shedding their feathers), which is stressful on their bodies and may have made him more susceptible to illness.

"The preliminary results that we have suggest he was fighting an illness, as opposed to an accident," said Celli. "We know his immune system was

Details

Guillermo came to Calgary from Rosamond Gifford Zoo in Syracuse, N.Y., in late 2011.

working really hard."

Celli said there is a possibility that the illness could have been transferred to other penguins in the exhibit, but she added that they don't believe it could be contagious to the point the animals would need to be isolated.

The post-mortem was conducted on Monday, and test results are expected next week.

KATIE TURNER/METRO IN CALGARY

Unregistered facility

Toddler dies at Brooks day home

RCMP say efforts to revive a toddler at a Brooks day home were unsuccessful on Monday.

Around 3:35 p.m., Brooks RCMP were called to a home acting as an unregistered day home caring for several young children.

When police and EMS arrived, they found an unresponsive 18-month-old girl who wasn't breathing. She could not be revived.

RCMP and the Calgary Medical Examiner's Office are conducting an investigation. **METRO**

Information sought

Police warn of break-ins, describe suspect

A string of break-ins over the past five days has Edmonton police asking Lymburn residents to be on the lookout.

Each home was entered through a screen or patio window while people were home. The suspect is a darker-skinned male between five foot eight and six feet tall and is believed to be between 20 and 30.

Anyone with information can call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or EPS at 780-423-4567. **METRO**



Cathy McMillan works on a drawing at her caricature stand. The stand takes up a corner of the Quirky Art Café, McMillan's coffee shop/art studio. PATRICK NGUYEN/FOR METRO

Artist rebounds with opposite-hand drawings

Determination.

Cathy McMillan learned a new way to paint after suffering an arm injury in February

PATRICK NGUYEN
edmonton@metronews.ca

Cathy McMillan has been a caricature artist for more than 29 years, making a living from her ability to draw.

In an instant, she saw it all disappear.

"I really had no idea what

I was going to do," McMillan said.

"That was my biggest fear in life, something happening to my arm."

McMillan tore the rotator cuff and broke the wrist of her right arm in February after a hockey player collided with her while she was ice-skating with her daughter.

McMillan's art coffee shop, the Quirky Art Café, had to be shut down because she wasn't able to draw.

"It was definitely a challenge," she said.

McMillan didn't quit, however. She persevered and did what a genuine artist-at-

Road to recovery

5

The number of months McMillan was unable to draw with her right hand.

heart would do: learn how to paint with her left hand.

"It was like going back to being five years old. I had no expectations with this arm. It didn't matter what came out," she said with a laugh.

Her new opposite-hand paintings were completely different than anything she had done before.

She found herself using a radically different colour palette as well as a different style. She said it made her grow as an artist.

"I just needed to paint, you know?" she said with a smile. "I would have painted with my feet if I had to."

After all she had been through, McMillan finished her physiotherapy earlier this week and has since returned to keeping her café, which combines a caricature stand with a full coffee shop.

"It's always been about my love for the art and I'm glad I can continue doing it," she said.



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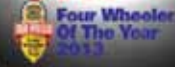
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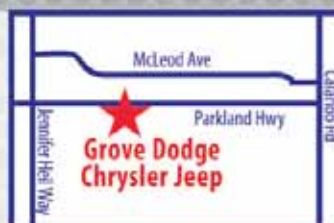


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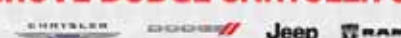


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Detroit election

Right message,
wrong date

Billboards promoting Detroit's upcoming general election offered up some erroneous information about when to go to the polls.

The Detroit Free Press reports that many of the 14 billboards gave a September date for the election. The vote will actually take place Nov. 5. City Clerk Janice Winfrey



says the billboards were updated Saturday, and she calls the September date "a mistake" by the business that handles the billboards.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Environmental quality

High pollution at
Lac-Mégantic: Study

Tests conducted by an environmental group suggest last month's Lac-Mégantic, Que., train disaster had a devastating impact on water quality and soil in the affected area.

High concentrations of carcinogenic polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and arsenic, detected in surface water,

have "confirmed the fears" of the Société pour vaincre la pollution, the group says.

The analysis, obtained by The Canadian Press, suggests the rate of carcinogenic polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons is 394,444 times the standard acceptable for surface waters mandated by the province.

As well, the concentration of arsenic detected on the water's surface is said to exceed the government's acceptable standard by 28 times. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Joshua Kyler Hoggan, then 16, is seen walking out of a Utah court with his mother. The teenager, arrested last year in a Columbine-inspired plot to blow up his high school, ran in a primary Tuesday in a bid to become mayor of Roy, Utah. ROBERT JOHNSON/STANDARD-EXAMINER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Teenager convicted in bomb plot runs for office

Utah mayoralty.

Joshua Kyler Hoggan had planned to attack his school: Authorities

Quoted

"I'm not so sure how sincere he is. I think he's in it for the notoriety."

Roy Mayor Joe Ritchie, on ballot rival Joshua Kyler Hoggan.

A teenager running for mayor in a small U.S. city said he never intended to go through with a plot to blow up his school that landed him in juvenile detention for half a year.

Joshua Kyler Hoggan, 18, competed in Tuesday's primary against a councilman and the current mayor of Roy, a city of about 37,000 people in Utah. Two of the three were to advance to the general election, and most considered Hoggan a long shot.

Hoggan told The Associated Press in an email that he recognizes what he did was wrong. But he insists that he never had any explosives or intent to bomb the school.

Hoggan served six months in juvenile detention after pleading guilty in 2012 to possession of a weapon of mass destruction. He said he's rehabilitated and ready to lead the city.

"People should trust me because I have proven one thing: That I am human," Hoggan said in the email. "I have made mis-

takes, just like the rest of us."

Police said that Hoggan, then 16, and an older classmate spent months plotting an attack inspired by the 1999 mass shooting at Columbine, a high school in Colorado state.


Their plan included a detailed plot, school blueprints and a plan to fly away after the bombing, said investigators, who never found a bomb.

A classmate told authorities after receiving text messages from Hoggan, who bragged that he planned to steal a plane from a nearby airport. The boy had logged hundreds of hours on a flight simulator program to prepare.

The older classmate, Dallin Morgan, pleaded guilty to criminal mischief and was given a 105-day jail sentence.

Hoggan just completed his first semester of university, where he is studying political science.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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metro

10

metronews.ca
Wednesday, August 14, 2013

Senate sends Wallin audit to Mounties

Expects \$82,000 back.

Senator not allowed to write off travel costs for next 12 months

Partisan Conservative fundraisers, a short hop to catch a flight to the Caribbean and glitzy awards galas are just some of the expenses Sen. Pamela Wallin billed to taxpayers under the guise of Senate business.

The Saskatchewan senator now faces the prospect of an RCMP probe, as well as paying back more than \$82,000 after an audit flagged a host of inappropriate travel claims dating back to her very first days in the upper chamber.

Wallin's ability to travel on the taxpayers' dime will be restricted for at least the next 12 months, Senate committee members said Tuesday.

"I believe I can speak for my colleagues on both sides when I say that we found aspects of the Deloitte report very troubling," said Liberal Sen. George Furey.

The former broadcaster has called the audit "flawed and



Sen. Pamela Wallin has already repaid \$38,000 and has promised to pay any disallowed expenses back — with interest. PATRICK DOYLE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

unfair," and her attorney has complained to auditing firm Deloitte about leaks of confidential information.

"Virtually nothing has happened ... which has not in some form or another found its way into the media," wrote Terrence O'Sullivan.

Deloitte auditors flagged \$121,348 in inappropriate expenses and called for further review of nearly \$21,000 in additional claims. Wallin has

already repaid \$38,000.

The audit also found that changes had been made retroactively to entries in Wallin's electronic calendar once the audit process had begun.

Wallin says the changes were the result of advice she received in order to co-operate with the audit. Conservative Sen. David Tkachuk said he only told Wallin to omit irrelevant information.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Caught red handed?

Doctor accused of stealing drugs out of smuggler's gut

Russian police have arrested a surgeon who they say stole some of the heroin he had been called on to extract from the stomach of a suspected drug mule.

Police in the Siberian region of Krasnoyarsk say that after investigators discovered some of the drugs were missing, they searched the surgeon and found a packet containing five grams of heroin hidden in his clothes.

The surgeon, who was not identified, was under the influence of narcotics when he was apprehended, according to the police statement issued Tuesday.

If convicted, the doctor faces up to 15 years in prison. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Calgary. Thieves dump out ashes of car-crash victim

Car prowlers on the hunt for loose change and other valuables have taken something from a grieving Calgary mother that money can't buy.

Colleen Ransom had kept her daughter Emma's ashes in her pickup truck since the 19-year-old student and three friends were killed in a 2009 car crash.

On Aug. 2, several vehicles were broken into on Colleen's street, and someone removed a green pouch with Emma's remains inside and emptied it onto the rain-soaked street.

Colleen was only able to salvage a few ashes and came forward Tuesday pleading with the public to help police nab the burglars responsible.

"Who would do that?" she asked. "It's a violation."

Also stolen was a green rain jacket that belonged to Emma. Police are looking to speak



Colleen Ransom with a picture of her daughter and the pouch of her ashes. JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO IN CALGARY

with three girls between the ages of 14 and 17 spotted in the neighbourhood.

Neighbour Garrett Smith said most of the neighbours he's spoken to said the thieves only took change out of the vehicles and ignored higher-value electronics.

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO IN CALGARY

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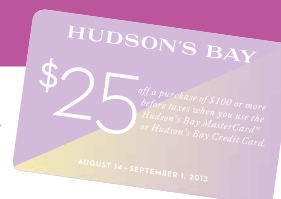
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Took the 'force of it on my chin'

Victoria. Bicycling to work quickly turned into a nightmare for father after he ran into electrical-tape trip line



LUKE SIMCOE
Metro Online

Sterling Eyford nearly severed his spine and now has five titanium plates holding his jaw together, all because electrical tape was mysteriously strung across a road in Victoria, B.C.

Eyford, 34, was cycling to work Friday morning when he collided with the tape. He was thrown off his bike and landed on the road.

"I took the whole force of it on my chin," he said.

His jaw shattered in two places. He lost a tooth. He hyperextended his neck. He has minor neurological damage in his hands and arms, and will be eating through a straw

for weeks.

"I pushed my spinal cord as far as it could go without being severed," he said. "I feel lucky. It could have been so much worse."

Eyford works as a casual producer for CBC, and says the "stupid prank" will cost him weeks of work and put undue stress on his family.

"I have two little girls at home," he said. "I can't even pick my kids up right now."

According to the Victoria Police Department, the black tape was strung on an angle between two traffic signs on Kings Road. It's not clear why the tape was there, or whether it was an intentional attempt to target cyclists or motorists.

Police are appealing to the public for help identifying possible suspects.

"I hope the whole weight of the law falls on these people," Eyford said.

"But I also want them to realize they did something extremely stupid and extremely violent."

"They attacked me."



'Justice for Sammy, justice for all'

Sarah Yatim, sister of Sammy Yatim, helps lead a march up Yonge Street in Toronto. Hundreds of protesters waving banners and placards spilled into the streets outside the city's police headquarters Tuesday chanting "Justice for Sammy, justice for all," referring to the 18-year-old who died last month after being shot and Tasered by officers. Yatim's mother and sister, along with the families of other police-shooting victims, attended the protest, which coincided with a monthly public meeting of Toronto's police services board. TEXT: THE CANADIAN PRESS; PHOTO: RANDY RISLING/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Middle East

Israeli military intercepts rocket

The Israeli military shot down a rocket launched toward a Red Sea resort town near the border with Egypt on Tuesday, the army said.

It was the first time Israel's Iron Dome missile defence system successfully intercepted a rocket attack on the resort of Eilat, the military said. The incident came after days of heightened tension along the Egypt-Israel border.

The army said the rocket was intercepted early Tuesday and that there were no injuries. It didn't provide more details and declined to comment on the origins of the projectile.

An al-Qaida-inspired militant group based in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, Ansar Jerusalem, claimed responsibility for launching the rocket in an email to The Associated Press. The little-known group is hostile to both Israel and Egypt and was behind an attack in August 2011 near Eilat that killed eight people.

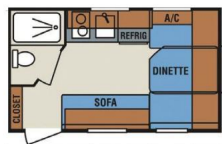
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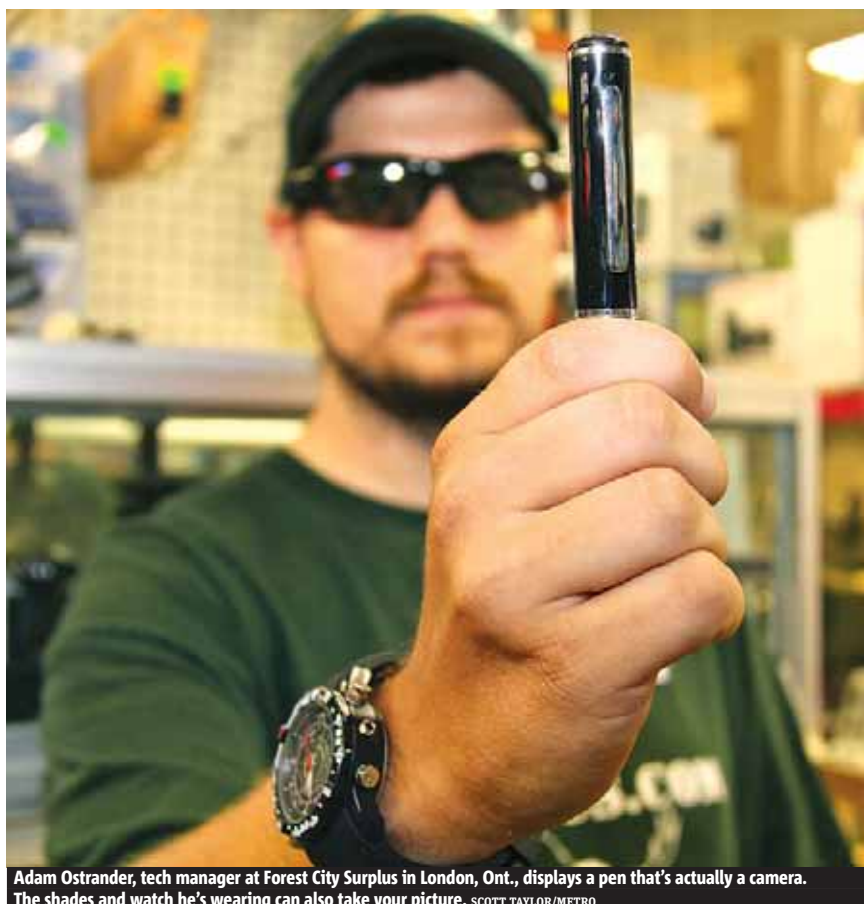
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Adam Ostrander, tech manager at Forest City Surplus in London, Ont., displays a pen that's actually a camera. The shades and watch he's wearing can also take your picture. SCOTT TAYLOR/METRO

Don't smile, you're on hidden camera

Inspecting gadget. Spycams can be on glasses, pens, even loose threads



SCOTT TAYLOR
Metro in London, Ont.

A woman runs out of a clothing boutique change room when she notices a camera recording her from under the door.

A man is arrested after police say he used a hidden camera to secretly take pictures of kids using a public washroom.

They're both cases straight out of police files thanks to large advances in tiny pieces of technology that officers say are a growing concern.

Spycams can be as small as the head of a pin and they're available to anyone, including the London man who allegedly peeped on partially naked children.

A recent visit to Forest City Surplus turned up cameras in a pen, a watch and a pair of sunglasses. Most go for about \$39 to \$49 and come with a warranty.

Why would you want one?

That's not tech manager Adam Ostrander's business, though he's heard a few explanations over the years.

"Usually, it's parents that want to keep an eye on babysitters, or they're just trying to take care of their property and they don't want big, honking cameras where people can see them," he said.

They're easy to use, too.

"A lot of the time, wireless ones will have an SD card, so all you have to do is pop the card out, and you can play it off of any computer," he said.

While his store sells some of the more common spy cams, Ostrander said advanced ones — which can look like a dead fly or even a loose thread on a man's tie — aren't hard to find. "Honestly,

Quoted

"There are likely more incidents than we know of because they're so hard to detect." Const. Jenna Van Aarsen

if you know where to look, pretty much any weirdo can get one," he said.

London police Const. Jenna Van Aarsen said officers can only act when a complaint is laid. Police aren't exactly over-run with complaints, largely, perhaps, because few people ever notice the cameras.

"For instance, there was a pen taped under a sink in a washroom at one point, so people need to be aware of their surroundings," she advised. "Take a quick look around. If you see a little hole or whatever, it's better to err on the side of caution. Contact the police to have it investigated."



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Railway in Quebec tragedy has its Canadian licence suspended

Montreal. Federal regulator made call after reviewing MMA's liability insurance

The railway at the centre of the Lac-Mégantic, Que., train disaster will have its operating licence suspended in Canada, a severe blow to an already crippled company.

The Canadian Transportation Agency announced Tuesday that it's revoking the certificates of fitness for the Montreal, Maine & Atlantic Railway Ltd. and its Canadian subsidiary, Montreal, Maine & Atlantic Canada Co.

The arm's-length federal regulator says it made the decision after reviewing the railway's third-party liability insurance following the fiery July 6 derailment that killed 47 people and wiped

out part of downtown Lac-Mégantic.

"We have concluded that (the coverage) is not adequate, thereby we have no choice but to suspend their certificate of fitness," said agency spokeswoman Jacqueline Bannister.

"We have given them until Aug. 20 to conclude their railway activities in Canada."

The agency said it had advised the railway that it must maintain at least the same amount of third-party liability coverage it had before the derailment.

But it said MMA's insurance broker indicated the aggregate coverage had been cut in half since the derailment.

The agency added that the railway failed to provide evidence it had additional insurance to make up the difference. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



An engineer checks the engine of a Montreal, Maine & Atlantic locomotive on July 11 outside the company's offices in the town of Farnham, Que. The Canadian Transportation Agency announced Tuesday that it's revoking the certificate of fitness for the embattled railway company. GRAHAM HUGHES/THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Food safety. Coca-Cola ads to defend artificial sweeteners

Coca-Cola plans to run its first ad defending the safety of artificial sweeteners on Wednesday, a move that comes as the company looks to stem declining sales of diet soda.

The print ad is set to run in USA Today in the Atlanta area, followed by the Atlanta Journal Constitution on Thursday and the Chicago Tribune next week. It says that diet drinks can help people manage their weight and stresses the scientific evidence showing the safety of aspartame, more commonly known under the NutraSweet brand name.

The ad represents the next phase of a campaign Coca-Cola Co. launched in January to push back at critics who blame its sugary drinks for

spiking obesity rates.

The first wave of ads outlined the company's commitment to fighting obesity and pointed to the many diet options it offers.

Now Coca-Cola is trying to reassure people that those lower-calorie drinks aren't harmful. "Coke is trying to get out front and proactively defend these diet sweeteners," said John Sicher, editor of Beverage Digest.

Sales of diet sodas are falling at a faster rate than regular sodas in the U.S., according to Beverage Digest. The declines come even though the U.S. Food and Drug Administration says aspartame may be safely used in foods as a sweetener. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



Coca-Cola will run an ad in U.S. papers in an attempt to reassure people that its lower-calorie drinks aren't harmful. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE**

Washington

U.S. Justice Dept. seeks to block airline merger

The U.S. federal government is trying to block the proposed merger of American Airlines and US Airways, saying it would cause "substantial harm" to consumers by leading to higher fares and fees.

The U.S. Justice Department, joined by the attorneys general of six states and the District of Columbia, filed a lawsuit to block the merger Tuesday in federal court in Washington, D.C. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Market Minute

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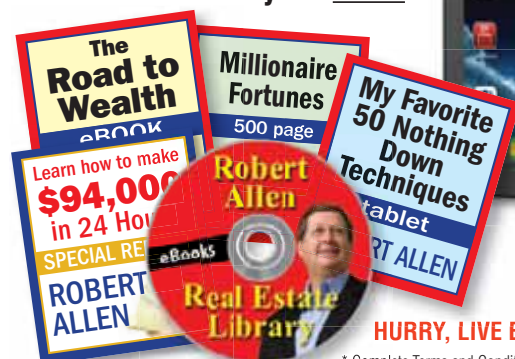
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HYPERLOOP CREATOR HAS CREDIBILITY

How cool is this:

A transport system that gets people from San Francisco to Los Angeles in half an hour using currently available technology?

It's called Hyperloop, the latest crazy plan from Elon Musk, the visionary who has so far given the world PayPal, the Tesla electric car and SpaceX, the world's only private space program.

Hyperloop is a solar-powered, lightweight, pneumatic system that proposes to move people and cars from one destination to another at 1,000 kilometres an hour. The tubes would follow California's I-5 and, unlike the rapid rail system now in the planning process, farmers would still be able to plant their crops under the columns.

Any way you look at it — cost, speed, efficiency, access, land use — Musk's estimated \$10-billion bright idea compares favourably to the now-planned \$70-billion-to-\$100-billion train that would poke along at about 320 kilometres an hour.

So why is everyone dumping all over it? Typical of the expert



JUST SAVIN'

Paul Sullivan

metronews.ca

opinion on Hyperloop is Richard White, a professor of American history at Stanford and author of *Railroaded: The Transcontinentals and the Making of Modern America*.

"It doesn't seem plausible to me," he told *The New York Times*. "I'm suspicious about everything, especially cost."

I'm not sure what Richard White thought when Musk announced SpaceX in 2002, but I don't think there was anyone who really believed it would be the first privately held company to take cargo to the International Space Station a mere 10 years later.

Elon Musk has visionary cred. While the tenured professors of negativity mutter in their beards, Elon Musk is busy designing the future.

Along with a few others such as the recently departed Steve Jobs, Google's Sergey Brin and tech-genius emeritus Bill Gates.

Not everything these guys dream up works. Landfills are littered with Newton PDAs and Vista software bundles and Google

seems to shut down as many services as it launches, but look at what they've brought to the table. Modern wonders of the world:

- A place where you can go and ask any question about anything and get a million answers.
- Programs that allow you to write, calculate, communicate, design, create and connect, all from your lap.
- Small devices that fit into your pocket that allow you to store, organize and access as many beautiful words, pictures and melodies as you can stand.

Not to mention a rocket-ship company that has single-handedly saved the International Space Station, our seed pod to the stars.

Sadly, for every Elon Musk, there are 100 Richard Whites. Eminent, expert and enervating. People who can tell you how it won't work. Prophets of failure.

We need more Elon Musks, people who look at grinding challenges such as gridlock and climate change and see opportunity. More than that: They see excitement. Their eyes sparkle.

It's like corny old Buzz Lightyear likes to say: To infinity and beyond!

Why would we want to go anywhere else?

ZOOM

Rustic rock villa meets urban upset



IMAGINECHINA/REX FEATURES

One castle in the sky not wanted

A mysterious Chinese medicine practitioner has been ordered to dismantle a rocky mountain villa built on top of a 26-storey block of apartments in Beijing.

Neighbours say Prof. Zhang Biqing began to illegally build the huge rock dwelling six years ago and they live in fear that the weight will cause the building to collapse. **METRO**

Costly

\$3.5M

At 27,349 yuan (\$4,468 US) per square metre for property in the Chinese capital, and 800 square metres (8,600 square feet) of rocky terrain, Zhang's luxury rooftop pad could be worth more than \$3.5 million US.

The faux mountain home is covered by fake rockeries, real trees and bushes, and is located in one of the city's more upmarket areas.

Unlicensed add-ons and alterations to homes is a common practice among China's wealthiest.

15-day deadline for demolition

The suites beneath Zhang's already suffer from cracks and leaking roofs. One neighbour had complained to the local urban management office, but Zhang allegedly hired thugs to beat him up and he then moved away. Following media exposure, the local urban management office has now ordered Zhang to dismantle the property within 15 days or it will be torn down. **METRO**

Quoted

"Since I dare to live here, I am not worried about complaints. Famous people come to my place and sing. How can you stop them? I used to worry that the house might be too much but I never expected this much attention."

Zhang told Beijing Morning News

Clickbait



ANDREW FIFIELD

andrew.fifield@metronews.ca

Are you suffering from the affliction of having way too much available data on your phone plan? Nip that problem in the bud with these recent online multiplayer gems. Besides, it's more fun to play together.

Ultima Forever

What's being billed as the App Store's largest free to play RPG has been a blast in the days since it launched.

There's no cross-platform play, sadly, but the developers are promising it. (iOS/Free)

Finest Hour

This turn-based, First World War-era tank warfare with a board game feel has been my favourite release for quite a while. Manage your fleet of armoured



war machines, with special care to positioning that exploits the weaknesses of your opponents' tanks while defending against the vulnerabilities of your own. Easily worth the cost. (iOS/\$0.99)

Disc Drivin'

OK, so there's nothing new about Disc Drivin', but I've recently rediscovered it buried among my app folders. A turn-based racing game where the vehicle of choice is a weighted disc you flick around a tricky track. (iOS/\$1.99)

Letters

RE: Ontario to examine pesticides as possible cause of bee deaths, published July 9

It was good to see a couple of articles back in July on the problems honeybees are having. Keep up the good work. I think the public needs to be made aware of how the honeybee has become an essential part of modern agriculture. Without it, the large crops of fruits, vegetables, nuts and even cotton wouldn't be pollinated.

The U.S. lost so many honeybee colonies that every year the country imports honeybees from Australia in order to satisfy the demand from farmers.

Can you imagine having to hand pollinate the flowers on a pear tree in order to get a pear to grow? Can you imagine the cost of the fruit? Well it is already happening. There is a province in China that no longer has honeybees due to the use of pesticides and the pear trees have to be hand pollinated.

A few months ago the EU banned neonicotinoids for a couple of years. Hopefully this will help to slow or reverse the trend of the declining honeybee populations.

When a bug eats a leaf, it dies. When a honeybee takes pollen and nectar to its hive, it therefore feeds this poison to the brood as well as the adult bees.

Derrick To, Vancouver

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU: Send us your comments: edmontonletters@metronews.ca

You're not paranoid — movies on espionage are good business

I spy. Opening this weekend, *Paranoia* won't be the last in a long list of movies about double crossing businesses



IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

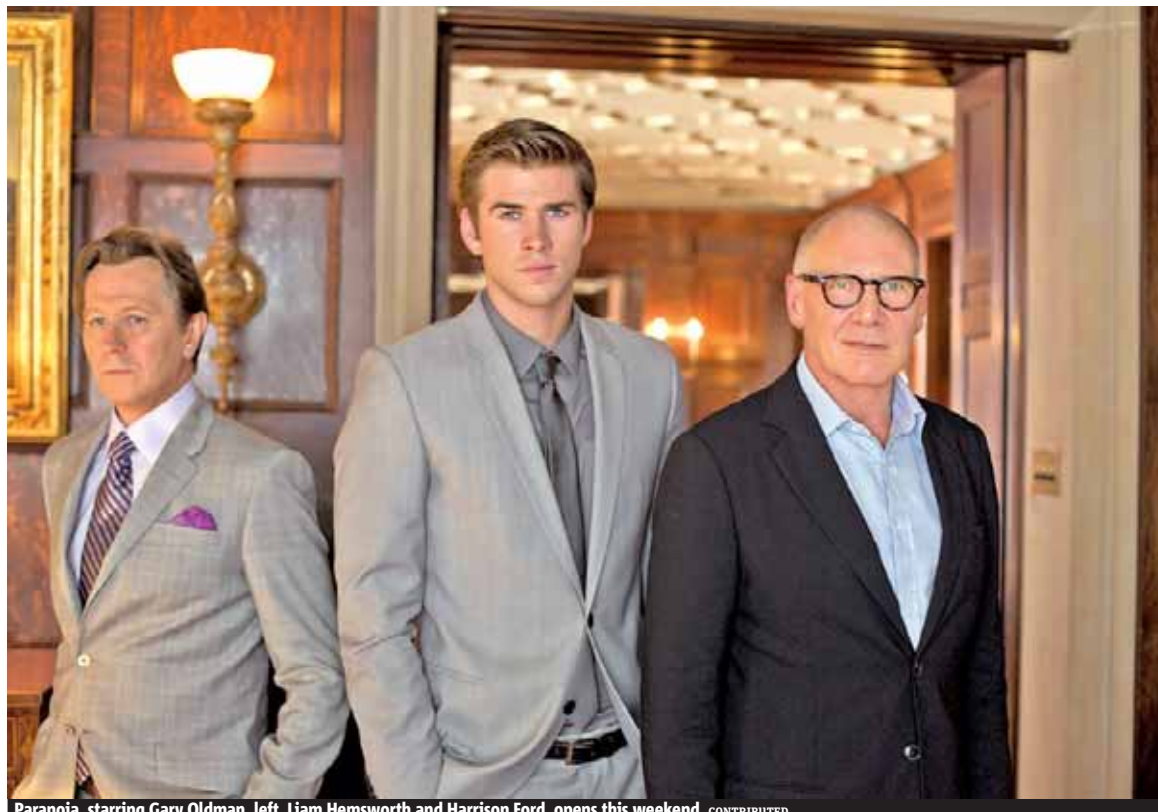
The word espionage is most commonly used in relation to spy stories. It conjures up images of James Bond, exotic locations and wild action scenes. But in many movies espionage has little to do with shaken not stirred martinis and Bond girls, and more to do with corporate secrets and intrigue.

This weekend, *Paranoia* explores the world of big business espionage as Adam Cassidy (Liam Hemsworth) finds himself doing dangerous double duty in the billion dollar world of high tech.

As an entry level employee, his boss Nicholas Wyatt (Gary Oldman) promises him a corner office, among other things, if he will spy on rival tech giant Jock Goddard (Harrison Ford).

That movie is set in the world of bits and bytes but corporate espionage comes in as many styles as that ergonomically designed chair in the CEO's office.

As the title would suggest, the movie *Duplicity* is ripe with lies and underhanded



Paranoia, starring Gary Oldman, left, Liam Hemsworth and Harrison Ford, opens this weekend. CONTRIBUTED

dealings. Julia Roberts and Clive Owen are former government spies now working in the private sector. Despite being intimately involved, they work for rival shampoo companies. It's a romantic comedy about undercover activities. Imagine if Rock Hudson and Doris Day had starred in *Mission Impossible* and you get the idea.

Genetics is the currency in *New Rose Hotel*, a 1999

dealings. Christopher Walken and Willem Dafoe film based on a short story by William Gibson. They play corporate moles hired to influence a Japanese bio-engineering expert to defect from one corporation to another. To seduce Dr. Hiroshi (Yoshitaka Amano) they hire a prostitute (Asia Argento) to win his affections. The plan doesn't work, and neither does the movie, really, but it's worth

a look for the flamboyant performances from Walken and Dafoe.

Finally, back in the world of high tech espionage, the Ben Affleck thriller *Paycheck* is a good little movie released at the wrong time. Wedged between *Gigli* and *Jersey Girl*, it came out at the height of Bennifer and the nadir of audience interest in Affleck as an actor.

Based on a Philip K Dick

short story, Affleck plays Jennings, a genius programmer hired by corporations to reverse engineer new products, recreating them anew. His work is so secretive that after he's done, his memory is wiped clean. The chicanery really begins when his employer (Aaron Eckhart) pulls a double cross, leaving Jennings with no money, no memory and a world of trouble.

2 SCENE



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Jennifer Garner

Garner wants to be known as more than a wife

Jennifer Garner makes it a point to attend some Hollywood events without husband Ben Affleck specifically so she'll be known as more than just his wife, she tells Allure magazine.

"It's a very conscious decision. Sometimes it's a pain because my heels are so high and it would be nice to have his arm. And he's such a great date," she says.

"But it can be too much. I think, especially for women, they can really lose their identity and just become 'wife of.'"

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Miley Cyrus knows she is white, m'kay?



THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Miley Cyrus, who is white, teamed up with French Montana, who is Moroccan, for a remix of his hit song 'Ain't Worried 'Bout Nothin'.

A portion of the collaboration, which was shot on an iPhone video, was put out onto the Interwebs on Monday. In the grainy video, Cyrus raps about "having thick chicks" and "stuntin' during Fashion Week."



In response to the clip, comments poured in — many of which were not so nice and seemed quite racially motivated — to which Cyrus replied via Twitter, "i know what color my skin is. you can stop with the friendly reminders b—."

It's been very interesting to watch the singer, who brought twerking into the mainstream, shed her Disney background and play her career and artistic self the way she wants to play it — no genres, no boundaries, no rules. Good for you, Miley.



Oprah Winfrey. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Winfrey apologizes over Swiss bag dust-up

Oprah Winfrey really wishes everyone hadn't made such a big deal about her not being able to buy a handbag in Switzerland because the store clerk assumed she couldn't afford it.

"I think the incident in Switzerland was just an incident in Switzerland," Winfrey says, according to

the BBC.

"I'm really sorry that it got blown up. I purposefully did not mention the name of the store. I'm sorry that I said it was Switzerland. It's not an indictment against the country, or even that store. It's just one person who didn't want to offer me the opportunity to see the bag."



Ed Sheeran

Swift's part of Sheeran's A-team

Ed Sheeran has become quite the fan of Taylor Swift in his time serving as her opening act on the road this summer, and most of that admiration is because Swift has "the most English sense of humour out of any American I've ever met," he tells

E! News.

"She's just dry. She has a very dry sense of humour ... And Americans are usually like slapstick comedy. That's the big thing; but she's very English. She's like The Office — English Office. Not Steve Carell, Ricky Gervais."



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Canada



Mayim Bialik

Bialik opens up about divorce

Instead of asking for privacy during her divorce from Michael Stone, Mayim Bialik has been going quite public with the details, chronicling the ordeal on her blog on Kveller.com.

"I wanted to write about some of the more complicated aspects, and specifically there's certain things to Jewish divorce that people don't know about," she tells Access Hollywood Live.

"It's very intense. So I wrote for Kveller about some of those aspects in hopes of maybe (being) helpful to other people or other women."

Twitter



@TheRock

Those looking to break into the entertainment biz - don't commit to fame. Commit to being great at what you do. Be relentless. Be great.



@josswhedon

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@NiallOfficial

One thing I learned while in america, everyone has braces and it's great! Must be a dental scheme

Life can be one heck of a ride, especially on these coasters

Amusement. Summer may be winding down, but there's still plenty of time to get your heart racing with these rides

JULIE KAYZERMAN
Metro World News in New York City

Pete Trabucco has a pretty thrilling job if you ask us — he's an amusement park expert. Yes, that's an actual job. Jealous? The author of America's Top Roller Coasters and Amusement Parks gave us the 411 on the best roller coasters in the United States for you to see this summer.

Hottest new coaster

Gatekeeper Cedar Point, Sandusky, Ohio cedar-point.com

Trabucco calls Cedar Point the "Mecca for all roller coaster enthusiasts." Gatekeeper is "one of the most anticipated rides that's coming out of that location," he says. "It's an absolutely amazing wing coaster in which you are actually suspended on the other side of this entire track," he says. "You are just flying with nothing but just air."

Cedar Point has 16 coasters, including Gatekeeper. It is also the only amusement park to have four coasters taller than 200 feet, including Top Thrill Dragster, the second tallest roller coaster in the world.



There is still plenty of coaster-weather left this year. ISTOCK IMAGES

Tallest thriller

Kingda Ka Six Flags Great Adventure, Jackson, N.J.. sixflags.com/greatadventure

Going from zero to 128 m.p.h. in about four seconds, this steel accelerator reaches 456 feet before it drops 418 feet at a 90-degree angle.

Best wooden coaster

El Toro Six Flags Great Adventure, Jackson, N.J.

This ride became the first wooden coaster to use a cable lift instead of a chain lift, allowing for a much

faster and steeper ride. El Toro has one of the steepest wooden-coaster drops and was voted the 2013 No. 1 wooden coaster by Amusement Today.

Best Florida coaster

Dragon Challenge Harry Potter World, Universal Park, Orlando, Fla. universalorlando.com/harrypotter

"The Dragon Challenge is basically two coasters that actually come tip to tip," says Trabucco. "When you're on the ride you actually almost touch toes as you loop the loop simultaneously."

Best kiddie coasters

"Any park that you go to, you're going to find at least one or two kid rides that are really well worth going on," Trabucco says. "If you're an adult and you're like me, you're not going to fit, but you hold your breath." Trabucco recommends:

- Sesame Place Langhorne, Pa. sesameplace.com
- Walt Disney World Resort, Lake Buena Vista, Fla. disneyworld.disney.go.com
- Runaway Mine Train Six Flags Great Adventure, Jackson, N.J. sixflags.com/greatadventure

World's largest

Safari expansion nets Six Flags' new title

Move over Disney. Six Flags Great Adventure is now the world's largest park thanks to its newest expansion ride, Safari Off Road Adventure.

The Jackson, N.J., theme park reimaged its 38-year-old Wild Safari park during the off-season, outfitting

the 350-acre, 1,200-animal preserve with 18 open-air safari vehicles customized from surplus army trucks.

"It's a worthwhile, interesting attraction," says Paul Ruben, industry expert and North American editor of Park World magazine.

By merging the Safari reserve with the existing Great Adventure property, the park is now 510 acres — surpassing Walt Disney World's Animal Kingdom (500 acres) as the world's largest theme park.

CHRIS LONGO

3 TIE


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Squamish: Canada's natural workout

B.C. Who needs a row machine and spinning class when you've got kayaking and mountain bikes?

KATHY BUCKWORTH
Life@metronews.ca

Squamish easily earns its title as "Canada's Outdoor Recreation Playground" with the many elements that provide a natural workout for this very active community.

The rowing machine is traded in for a sea kayaking tour with Coast River Kayak School. They provide the equipment, training, and the commentary for a paddle out toward Howe Sound, stopping to take in the breathtaking scenery that surrounds you — mountains, birds, kites from the nearby kite boarding school, rustic beaches, logging activity and the occasional seal popping up and down.

Hiking The Chief, Canada's largest granite monolith, of-

fers a natural and scenic Stairmaster, featuring a steep hiking trail up over 600 metres of rocky terrain. Stone and wooden stairways take you up to ladders and chains before eventually opening up to the top to an unparalleled view of Squamish Valley.

The only better view you'll get is with the Sea to Sky Air team. Flying out of Squamish's tiny airport, tours up and down the valley are offered, and fliers can also have the opportunity to "take the wheel" with an expert flight instructor.

Spinning class can wait when you have the opportunity to rent bikes from the Sea to Sky Adventure Company (located inside the beautiful Squamish Adventure Centre), which includes everything from mountain bikes, which can take on the many trails, to the more sedate cruisers, perfect for a gentle cycle down riverside paths and through the downtown area. Cycle down to the Howe Sound Brewery, which offers 30 plus types of craft beers.

Their once a month beer-pairing dinners have become



Visitors to Squamish can choose between rapids and the slower moving parts of the Elaho and Squamish Rivers. CONTRIBUTED

a huge hit. Don't worry about jumping on that bike again afterwards, as the brewpub is also a 20-room inn.

Jumping and bumping is something you do in an aqua fit class; replace that with the white water rafting rides offered by Canadian Outback Ad-

ventures.

The Elaho River tour takes brave participants down heaving Class IV rapids, bouncing and throwing up gallons of glacial water. The quieter parts of this river, and the Squamish River that it joins up with, allow for a break from the "Paddle

hard" commands of the rugged raft guides. Guests of the Executive Suites Resort & Hotel can be picked up on site, and then return for drinks and gourmet food at The Living Room restaurant, or enjoy a meal in their kitchen-fit suite.

While the outdoors defines

Squamish, the Britannia Mine Museum shows what happens underneath the scenic elements. This historic site allows visitors to go down the tunnels, learn about mining and enter into the massive mill building, where the ghosts of miners are felt. Kids love the oversized dump truck and play area, while adults are drawn in by this important piece of copper history.

Every workout needs fuel, and the perfect spot is the award winning Fergie's Café, located at the charming Sunwolf lodge, which includes 10 cabins and one larger building available for renting.

In 2014, the views from the top of Squamish become available to everyone with the Sea to Sky Gondola.

Set to open in July 2014, this highly anticipated addition will allow people to travel up 2,500 feet and enjoy a restaurant, retail shops and a suspension bridge. For those still looking for an active alternative, new hiking and biking trails will be added at the summit. For more information visit tourismsquamish.com.



Hilton Waikoloa Village, Hawaii

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Making a vacation home your own — even if it isn't

Rent it. That mansion on the beach you've been lusting for may not be within your price range — but you can pretend

JULIA FURLAN
Metro World News in New York City

Jet-setting around town and living out of a suitcase may seem glamorous, but it gets old fast.

There's something special about crossing the threshold of a house — the kind of house you don't usually live in — and making it "home" for a few days.

Robert Milne, president of WyndhamVacation Rentals North America — a company specializing in luxury house rentals — gave us some tips about making yourself at home while you're on vacation.

What kind of folks usually go for rental houses?

Typically, our demographic, as you can probably imagine, is a family. But usually it's more than just two adults.

It's the mom and dad and maybe the uncle or a friend, because renting gives people an opportunity to invite other friends or family that they might not otherwise.

What makes renting a

Advice

- **DO.** Ask questions beforehand. "We had one guest who showed up at a vacation rental and brought all of their sheets and towels, and they were floored to learn that the house already had linens. I think a lot of it is doing your research and making sure that you find out what amenities there are, too."
- **DON'T.** Obsess about work. "I always remind guests that there is so much to do and see that they should avoid bringing too much work with them. In my experience, staying at a rental means it becomes your home away from home — many of our guests feel the same way."

house different from staying in a hotel?

I'm a perfect example of it, actually.

(My family) rents vacation houses when we travel, and it's funny how over the years different members of the family invited friends who we never would have thought of inviting if we were going to stay in a hotel.

It's like, even though we're good friends, I'm not going to invite you to stay in a hotel with me — but it's different when it is a house.

Plus, if you invite your friend along, the cost splits amongst a lot of people and makes it a good value.

Sites like VRBO, Airbnb and HomeAway make it easy to rent houses.

What makes your company different?

One of the bigger differences between the professionally managed properties versus houses managed by owners is that a lot of the owners don't have the sophistication of software to make sure that double-bookings and other problems don't happen.

We came up with a "renter's bill of rights" that we could stand behind as a company. It is a service pledge that promises high standards of customer service, real-time booking, accurate property portrayals and diverse properties with clean, regularly inspected units.



Rent your vacation home. Then invite your friends and relatives to share the good times — and price tag. ISTOCK IMAGES

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Going up to bat in a casual chat

The on-the-spot interview. A recruitment can occur at any time. Be ready!

ROSIE
HALES
TalentEgg.ca

Your job hunt is all about preparation. Careful research, polished cover letters and resumés and a clear plan for the future are all key to your success.

Don't overlook a crucial component of the job hunt that could be essential to snagging your dream job: the on-the-spot interview.

If you're networking or attending an info session, you may find yourself in a casual conversation that suddenly turns the heat up when a big name figure or recruiter starts asking you the tough questions.

Presenting yourself in just a few minutes might seem nerve-racking, but these tips will help you ace an on-the-spot interview.

Get excited

First impressions matter a great deal. If you seem like you're dreading an interview-style conversation, that's going to affect your responses and how they're received.

When presented with the opportunity to take part in an on-the-spot interview, imagine it as getting one step closer to a job.

Yes, it's a challenge, but that doesn't mean you have to treat it like a hurdle.

You should be seeking out these opportunities, not fearing that one might find you.

Tip: "That sounds great, I'd appreciate that opportunity."

Your thoughts?

TalentEgg:
#QuestionoftheDay: How do you prepare for an interview? Share your tips to help out other interviewees!

- @aadamzaidi: #QuestionoftheDay To boost confidence, I tell myself that it would be their loss to not hire me and back it up with my skills.
- @HanleyShaun: #QuestionoftheDay Research the company, find out everything I can, good and bad, so I have questions and can interview them.
- @rosieghales: I write a list of potential questions, brainstorm answers, and think of examples to back them up! #QuestionoftheDay

makes a much stronger impression than, "Oh! OK..."

Dress the part

Believe it or not, one of the key steps to success in an on-the-spot interview takes place before you even get in the room.

If you're visiting an event on the spur of the moment and are tempted to show up in street wear, think again. Wearing appropriate attire helps communicate that you're taking the event seriously, and indicates to a prospective employer that you understand the importance of following a dress code.

A good rule of thumb is to dress as if you were attending a formal interview on-site at



Close your conversation with a handshake and a wrap-up statement that indicates you appreciated the opportunity to talk. Suggest following-up on your conversation and exchange contact information as appropriate. ISTOCK

a company, or a little more formal than their daily dress code.

Err on the side of conservative dress, but try to include a unique detail that reflects your personality.

Tip: If it's impossible for you to get into your preferred networking outfit, be sure to at

least wear something more dressy than you'd wear on an average day. No knapsacks!

Brainstorm better answers

Before you attend a recruitment event or info session, challenge yourself with commonly-asked interview questions. For example:

- Why do you want to work at

our company?

- What are your greatest strengths and weaknesses?
- What are you looking for in a career?

You may think you've got these questions covered, particularly if you think well on your feet. However, providing a memorable answer isn't

just about saying relevant things. These questions are generic, and even great answers that are all about you will sound generic as well. Don't just talk about yourself.

Use your answers to show active engagement with the structure and workplace culture of your potential employer.

Tip: This is a good opportunity to identify and prioritize what you're looking for in an employer. The results may surprise you!

Practice your elevator pitch

Your on-the-spot interview won't necessarily be a time-consuming activity. It might be as simple as one of many possible open-ended questions, like: "What makes you a great candidate?"

This is where crafting a good elevator pitch comes in. Ask yourself: "If I was stuck in an elevator for 60 seconds with a brilliant figure from my industry, what would I say to make him or her want to work with me?"

You'll need to be ready to demonstrate your exceptional qualities while tailoring your response to an employer's specific question. There are no quick tricks here, just good old practice. Figure out the angle you want to use, then practise adjusting it to different situations.

Tip: The goal is to sound prepared, not rehearsed. With regular practice, you'll be able to improvise and maintain a natural attitude while making a strong impression.

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It may feel like the end of the world but this is the perfect time to prove yourself as a professional. ISTOCK

The dos and don'ts of dealing with a d'oh!

Mending your first mistake. Turn that blunder into an opportunity to impress your business buds

MEGHAN GREAVES
TalentEgg.ca

Mistakes happen, especially when first hatching your career. There's a lot to learn, a new workplace "style" to adhere to, and a ton of egg-citing but sometimes challenging scenarios. It doesn't help that being a new hire can be nerve-racking as well.

The good news is that it's more than likely that your employer will be understanding of your first "whoops" if you handle it properly. This is easy if you're equipped with the right skills. We did some research on how to overcome your first mistake at work and asked around to get more ideas.

Take responsibility

You've acknowledged that a mistake has been made, developed a solution and brought the situation to your manager. Now it's time to apologize.

- Your apology doesn't have to be an overwrought speech, but it should be genuine.
- Apologizing shows your employer right off the bat that you are being professional about the situation and gives him or her the confidence to believe that you will make it right.

Acknowledge that you've made a mistake

You've accidentally replied to everyone in a sensitive email, sent the wrong message or double-booked your boss.

The first thing to do is ac-

knowledge the mistake. Don't sweep it under the rug for someone else to find. Owning up prevents the mistake from snowballing into a serious problem.

This is also the perfect time to take any responsible steps to reverse the mistake, if possible.

Advise your manager

The best thing to do after realizing that you have made a mistake and taking the proper steps to come up with a solution is to advise your manager.

This may be a scary thing, but telling your manager about a mistake is a lot less scary than being asked about it.

While no one likes mistakes, you need to believe that your manager will understand and appreciate your honesty.

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REQUIREMENTS OF THE POSITION:

- Skilled in print, online and mobile graphic design, comprehensive and complete software knowledge including, QuarkXPress, InDesign, Adobe Acrobat/Distiller, Photoshop, and Illustrator
- Proficient on both Mac and PC platforms
- Ability to prep files for print production, including file stuffing (.sitx, .sit, .sea, .zip) and FTP experience
- Professional, personable, approachable with great communication skills (both verbal and written)
- Ability to thrive under pressure in a fast paced, multi-faceted and deadline driven environment with strong attention to detail (typography, copy, grammar, layout, images, colour, etc)
- Must be a quick problem-solver, who initiates projects and takes a pro-active approach.
- Must be highly skilled at multi-tasking, prioritizing workload efficiently, and tracking ad material.
- Post secondary degree or diploma in Graphic Design (Print)
- 3+ years design experience within a media environment

Interested individuals who possess the skills described above are requested to submit their resume and cover letter via email to hr@metronews.ca no later than August 23, 2013. PLEASE QUOTE: "Graphic Designer - Edmonton" in the subject line. All submissions will be treated as confidential.

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A crepe isn't a crepe without a plum

These crepes are delicious for breakfast, brunch or dessert. The plums are cooked with star anise until just soft and complemented by the cardamom in the whipped cream.

1. In a large bowl, whisk

Ingredients

- 3 eggs, lightly beaten
- 500 ml (2 cups) milk
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) melted butter, plus extra for cooking crepes
- 250 ml (1 cup) all-purpose flour
- 5 ml (1 tsp) salt

Plums

- 15 ml (1 tbsp) vegetable oil
- 6 blue plums, pitted and quartered
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) granulated sugar
- 250 ml (1 cup) semi-dry white wine (such as Riesling)
- 8 whole star anise pods
- Zest and juice of 1 lemon

Whipped Cream

- 250 ml (1 cup) whipping cream (35 per cent)
- 75 ml (1/3 cup) liquid honey
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) ground cardamom

eggs, milk, 50 ml (1/4 cup) melted butter, flour and salt until no lumps remain. Cover and refrigerate for at least 2 hours before making crepes.

2. Plums: In a large heavy-bottomed skillet, heat oil over medium heat. Brown cut side of plums for about 2 minutes per side; sprinkle with sugar. Add wine, star anise pods and lemon zest to skillet and bring to a boil; reduce heat to medium. Cook until plums are soft, about 4 minutes. With a slotted spoon, remove plums to a heatproof bowl.

3. Bring syrup to boil; boil until reduced by half, 5 to 6 minutes. Add lemon juice to taste; pour over plums. Cover and let cool to room temperature.

4. Crepes: Heat a 20-cm (8-inch) non-stick skillet over medium heat. Brush pan with melted butter. Pour 75 ml (1/3 cup) batter into centre of pan, tilting pan to cover bottom thinly. Return to heat for about 1 minute or until bottom is lightly browned. Using

Plum Crepes With Cardamom and Honey Whipped Cream



This recipe serves eight. COURTESY THE CANADIAN PRESS

a spatula, flip crepe over and brown other side. Remove to a plate. Repeat with remaining batter, buttering pan if needed. (Refrigerate crepes if not using immediately.)

5. Whipped Cream: Using an electric mixer, whip cream

on medium until thickened slightly. Slowly add honey and cardamom, whipping until stiff peaks form, about 2 minutes. Keep refrigerated until ready to use.

6. Remove star anise pods from plums. Place crepes on

cutting board. Divide plum mixture among 8 crepes, spooning mixture onto one half. Fold crepes over. Carefully transfer to serving plates; garnish with whipped cream and a star anise pod. **THE CANADIAN PRESS/ CHEF TAFIK SHEHATA FOR FOODLAND ONTARIO**

Drink of the Week

Breakfast of Champs

Kick off any hot summer day with this refreshing punch. It's simple and delicious, with lemon juice, simple syrup and soda water.

- 8.5 oz Belvedere Vodka
- 4 oz lemon juice
- 3 oz simple syrup
- 16 oz soda water

Add all ingredients into a glass jug. Garnish with lemon slices and mint.

COURTESY BELVEDERE VODKA



Pillowry goodness of pancakes

1. Compote: In a saucepan on low heat, cook berries with sugar for 30 minutes. Let cool and set aside.

2. Pancakes: Into a bowl, sift all dry ingredients and combine. Add eggs and mix in milk and buttermilk. The

batter should be thick but not too thick (if additional liquid is required, add a little water). Set aside and let rest for 1 hour.

3. In a frying pan or flat grill, heat a small amount of oil. When hot, spoon pan-

cake batter onto hot surface. Cook until pancakes start to bubble on top and are slightly dry around edges, about 2 minutes. Flip over and cook until golden, about 1 minute.

4. Repeat until all batter

has been used, keeping pancakes warm until ready to serve. Drizzle berry compote. **THE CANADIAN PRESS/EAT PRAY LOVE: REGIONALLY INSPIRED CUISINE BY ROCKY MOUNTAINEER, WITH RECIPES CREATED BY CHEFS JEAN PIERRE GUERIN AND FREDERIC COUTON**

Ingredients

Compote

- 50 ml (1/4 cup) blueberries
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) blackberries
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) strawberries
- 75 ml (1/3 cup) white sugar

Pancakes

- 125 ml (1/2 cup) whole-wheat flour
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) all-purpose flour

- 50 ml (1/4 cup) white sugar
- 10 ml (2 tsp) baking powder
- 5 ml (1 tsp) baking soda
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) salt
- 2 eggs
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) milk
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) buttermilk
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) canola oil, for cooking



There's a page for that in the new **IKEA Catalogue.**

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CFL

Sherritt out indefinitely with thumb injury

The Edmonton Eskimos have lost all-star linebacker JC Sherritt to injury.

The club announced Tuesday that Sherritt, the CFL's outstanding defensive player last season, recently underwent successful thumb surgery and will be out indefinitely.

The Eskimos said Sherritt

sustained the injury in their 30-29 home loss to Hamilton on Aug. 2.

Edmonton is in Toronto on Sunday night to face the defending Grey Cup champion Argonauts.

Edmonton also announced it has signed receivers Dominique Edison and Jamar Howard and offensive lineman Miles Mason to the practice roster. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

MLB

Red Sox ground Blue Jays in extras

Shane Victorino hit a two-run single to put Boston ahead in the 11th inning Tuesday as the Red Sox went on to beat the Toronto Blue Jays 4-2.

Victorino's two-out single off Blue Jays reliever Aaron Loup (4-5) scored Jarrod Saltalamacchia and Jacoby Ellsbury, helping the Red Sox (72-49) pad their lead atop the American League East.

Boston starter Ryan Dempster of Gibsons, B.C., finished after seven innings of work with just the one run allowed on four hits with four strikeouts. Koji Uehara (3-0) pitched 1 1/3 innings to finish the game and pick up the win.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Brianne Theisen Eaton celebrates winning a silver medal in the heptathlon at the world track and field championships in Moscow on Tuesday.
ALEXANDER ZEMLIANICHENKO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Newlywed ups her game to win silver

Track and field.

Theisen Eaton captures her first world championship medal to complement her husband's gold

The Eatons finished their working honeymoon in Russia on Tuesday, ever so close to making it a double-gold celebration at the world track and field championships.

Brianne Theisen Eaton of Humboldt, Sask., failed to sufficiently shake off Ganna Melnichenko in the final 800-metre race of the heptathlon and finished with a silver medal two days after her husband, Ashton Eaton of the United States, won gold in the

Making history

The medal was Canada's second in Moscow after London, Ont.'s Damian Warner won bronze in the decathlon.

- It's the first time Canadian athletes have ever won medals in male and female combined events at the same world championship.



Damian Warner GETTY IMAGES

decathlon.

After two days of competition, Theisen Eaton no longer had the legs to create a decisive gap ahead of Melnichenko. And while the Ukrainians went celebrating wrapped in her national flag, Theisen Eaton wrapped herself in the warmest of embraces of her smiling husband.

Barely a month after marriage, they proved it was a near-perfect competitive match as she gained her first global medal.

"I watched Ashton the last couple of years winning all his medals and could only sit back and imagine what that felt like," said Theisen Eaton.

"Ashton and I talked about

both being on the podium here, it was definitely our plan. We'll probably just go home now, sit on the couch for a few days watching television and eating crappy food."

A real honeymoon could also be on the agenda.

"We're contemplating on the honeymoon," Theisen Eaton said. "Now would be the perfect time to go lay on the beach."

Melnichenko won her first major competition with 6,586 points, compared to 6,530 for Theisen Eaton, who became the third Canadian woman to win a world championship medal. Hurdlers Priscilla Lopes-Schliep (silver in 2009) and Perdita Felicien (gold in 2003 and silver 2007) are the others. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/**

WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dead hockey player remembered as 'gentle large boy'

A junior hockey player who died suddenly at a training camp this week was a large but gentle boy who had recently started to show academic promise, his former principal said Tuesday.

Paul Kitchen, head of school

at Rothesay Netherwood in New Brunswick, said staff and students have been hit hard by the death of Jordan Boyd.

The 16-year-old boy died Monday after collapsing during a skating drill at tryouts for the Acadie-Bathurst Titan of the

Quebec Major Junior Hockey League.

Kitchen said the 270-student private school in Rothesay is reaching out to offer support to Boyd's parents, who had been thrilled by their son's academic progress.

"Jordan is a fine, fine young man who worked hard at his academics, who worked hard at his relationship with others," Kitchen said in an interview.

"He was ... this gentle, gentle large boy with this smile on his face."

The league said a physical therapist provided CPR after Boyd fell on the ice, lost consciousness and stopped breathing at a rink in Bathurst, N.B. Results from an autopsy are expected later this week.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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2014 Ford Transit Wagon



ALL PHOTOS WHEELBASEMEDIA.COM

Review. A fresh take on the minivan ... from Europe? Yes indeed

MALCOLM GUNN
wheelbasemedia.com

Nowhere in Ford's press or promotional literature will you see the 2014 Transit Connect Wagon referred to as a minivan.

But one walk around this big-roofed rig with its dual-sliding side doors and up to seven passenger seating capacity is enough to confirm that "minivan" is the most relevant designation, even if it's from Europe.

The TC Wagon, which arrives in late 2013, is the junior-sized civilian offshoot of a series of new windowless commercial-vans heading to North America from Ford's factory in Spain. Unlike the Mazda, the TC Wagon will be offered in five and seven passenger sizes, separated by about 41 centimetres in overall length and in distance between the

2014 Ford Transit Wagon

•**Type.** Four-door, front-wheel-drive compact van

•**Engines (hp).** 2.5-litre DOHC I4 (168, est.); 1.6-litre DOHC I4, turbocharged (173, est.)

•**Transmissions.** Six-speed automatic

•**Base price (incl. destination)** \$27,500

Technology

Also available is SYNC with MyFord Touch, which is the automaker's latest voice-controlled infotainment and communications system, plus your selection of either cargo-van-style side-hinged rear doors or a more traditional liftgate.

Fuel Economy

Seeing as Ford is boasting better than 6.0 l/100 km highway rating for the turbo, 9.0 l/100 km in the city and 6.1 on the highway is a reasonable guess with the base 2.5 being a touch thirstier.

Design

The retiring Transit Connect's tall body was always better suited for work-van duty, while the new Transit Connect Wagon's stylish sheet metal seems far more car-like in looks and in application. In fact, it's a long overdue departure from the classic minivan shape.

front and rear wheels. The pair replaces the original five-passenger Transit Connect van that arrived for the 2010 model year.

The five-passenger TC Wagon's just-right size is more esthetically pleasing, but for larger families the elongated seven-seat version will likely get the nod. Both are finished off as well as any other members of Ford's compact fleet, including the Focus sedan and hatchback and Escape small utility vehicle.

With three distinct trim

levels — XL, XLT and Titanium — the TC Wagon can be spiced up just about any way you want, from utilitarian basic to full-on premium class transporter with leather seat coverings, king-size panoramic glass roof, a navigation system with a 6.5-inch (16.5-centimetre) screen, fancy wheels, upgraded sound system and other niceties.

In either case, the split-folding second-row — and the dual fore-and-aft-sliding third-row seats found in extended models — can be flattened

for maximum stowage. The TC Wagon will accommodate up to 545 kilograms of cargo and tow up to 910 kilograms. Think personal water craft or ATV here.

Along with its compact silhouette, the TC Wagon promises to maintain a solid grip on fuel consumption by way of its engines. The starting point is a 2.5-litre four-cylinder, while a turbocharged 1.6-litre four-cylinder "EcoBoost" powerplant is optional.

Far from being just a cargo van with added windows and

seats, the Transit Connect Wagon is nothing short of a fully turned-out utility hauler. Ford is keeping the starting prices to itself for now, but you'll likely be able to drive a short-wheelbase model off the lot for about \$27,500, which would put the longer model at close to \$30,000.

The TC Wagon represents a breakthrough of sorts in the minivan field, even if, categorically speaking, Ford would rather you refer to it as something other than a minivan.

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5 DRIVE

Enjoy ultra comfort in the S Class

Second gear.

2007-2013
Mercedes S Class

JUSTIN
PRITCHARD
drive@metronews.ca

One of the world's foremost flagship sedans, the last-generation Mercedes S-Class was available from model years 2007 to 2013 inclusive. Look for numerous engine options, all wheel drive, and special versions — including performance tuned models, hybrid-powered models and more.

In the used market, S-Class examples with the AMG designation are equipped with upgraded engines, brakes, chassis components and track-validated driveline upgrades for a high-performance package. The 4Matic designation indicates the presence of all wheel drive (AWD).

Feature content was exhaustive. Look for options like navigation, voice-command, adaptive xenon lights, night-vision, adaptive suspension, premium audio, climate controlled seats, an emergency calling system, heated steering wheel and plenty more.

Common issues

You'll want to confirm proper operation of all of its numerous electronic systems and features. Double check all windows, locks, power seats, the navigation system, air suspension (if equipped) and climate control system. Pay special attention to the gear shifter. This electronic-style shifter adds convenience, though several owners have reported issues getting it to select the gear they want. According to owners forums, shoppers should also confirm proper operation of the washer-fluid pump, power seat lumbar control and backup camera system.

Problems with worn-out timing gears inside the engines on earlier models are well documented. So are transmission issues that may require repair and even replacement of the gearbox. Out-of-warranty repairs of these parts will be very costly, so shoppers are advised to protect themselves by opting for as new a model as possible or opting for any additional powertrain warranty coverage available.

Proper and timely dealer-performed maintenance is important for the long-term quality and reliability of a used S-Class. As such, shoppers are advised against purchasing a model without full service records.



CONTRIBUTED

What owners like



S-Class owners rate the style, comfort, presence and exclusivity of their rides very highly. World-class comfort and a very quiet ride are also reported. The AWD system, wide range of safety features and a locked-on driving feel all add confidence.

What owners dislike



Owners of cars in this price range are typically reluctant to list any complaints, and the S-Class is no exception. Other than issues with parking (because of its size), and a few gripes about windshield-wiper performance, complaints are hard to track down.

The verdict

Transmission and timing-gear issues seem to have affected earlier S-Class models in this generation, reinforcing the importance of opting for extended powertrain warranty coverage, if possible. For maximum confidence, seek out a used S-Class from a Mercedes Benz pre-owned program.

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Watching for cyclists? Your car may be too

Driving force. The clever radar system Pedestrian and Cyclist Detection is a godsend that will save lives

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In a collision between a car and a bicycle, the car is going to win every time. While several automakers have emergency braking or cruise control systems that can recognize other vehicles ahead, some can also identify cyclists, including the system from Volvo.

The system, called Pedestrian and Cyclist Detection with full auto brake, is able to identify the unique shape of someone on a bicycle ahead of the car. "It's a camera and radar-based system," says Martin Magnusson, senior engineer and function developer for Volvo Cars in Sweden. "It uses a camera to detect the bicycle and cyclist, and then it uses radar to confirm the detec-

Technological wonder

"It uses a camera to detect the bicycle and cyclist, and then it uses radar to confirm the detection. It will look for the characteristics of a human being, the head, arms and legs, and then it also detects that there is a bicycle."

Martin Magnusson, senior engineer and function developer for Volvo Cars in Sweden

tion. It will look for the characteristics of a human being, the head, arms and legs, and then it also detects that there is a bicycle." The system uses Volvo's Auto Brake, which will automatically apply the vehicle's brakes if it detects an imminent collision, and the driver ignores a warning and doesn't hit the brakes. At lower speeds, it can stop the car before it hits something.

At higher speeds, the car might not have enough time to stop completely, but the

Details

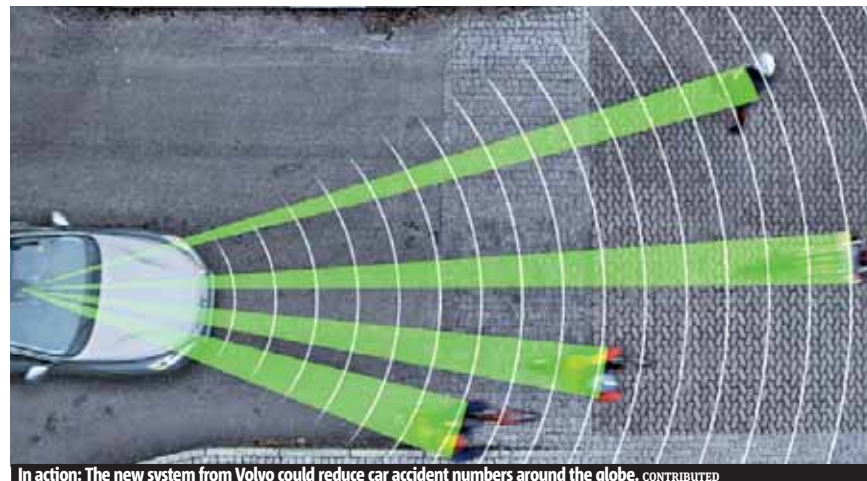
• **Launch.** Volvo launched its vehicle detection system in 2006, and added pedestrian detection, a more complex system, in 2010.

• **Stats.** According to CAA, some 7,500 cyclists are seriously injured in crashes each year in Canada, most of them during the afternoon rush hour.

• **Deadly locations.** The majority of cyclist deaths occur at intersections with lights or other traffic controls.

impact speed will be reduced. The chance of serious injury or death skyrockets as speed increases. It's estimated that a pedestrian hit by a car going 32 km/h has a five per cent chance of being killed, but if the car is going 64 km/h, the risk of fatality increases to 85 per cent.

"The system constantly monitors the traffic situation and does what we call select assessment," Magnusson says.



In action: The new system from Volvo could reduce car accident numbers around the globe. CONTRIBUTED

"It's a threat evaluation, (to see if) it's a dangerous situation or not. When there is a high risk of a collision with a bicycle, the system will warn with a red flashing light in the windshield and a warning sound. If the driver doesn't react, the system will automatically brake the vehicle."

Developing the system wasn't easy, since it has to be able to detect cyclists no mat-

ter what they are wearing, and in rain or bright sunshine. The system can also pick out motorcycles. At the moment, it can only detect cyclists that are riding in front of the car in the same direction, but engineers are working on identifying cyclists that ride across the car's path. In future, the system may also be able to identify and stop for large animals. "We are constantly looking at

new scenarios where people can be injured or killed, and we can work to add them," Magnusson says. According to CAA, some 7,500 cyclists are seriously injured in crashes each year in Canada, most of them during the afternoon rush hour.

The majority of cyclist deaths occur at intersections with lights or other traffic controls.

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Parts Department

WHEELBASE MEDIA

Don't get stuck



Finding yourself hopelessly mired in mud, sand, or snow can be frustrating as well as dangerous. Australia-based Maxtrax has developed a vehicle recovery system that offers a significant measure of protection in case of such occurrences. The system's key component is a pair of engineering-grade reinforced nylon extraction ramps with lots of gripping teeth that grab hold of the tire and extra-long cleats on the opposite side for maximum surface grip. Each 110 by 32-centimetre unit weighs only three kilograms (yet is rated to handle almost four tonnes) so they can be easily set into position by one person. Each set sells for about \$270 US plus an additional \$110 for the optional storage bag. Get all the details at maxtrax.com.au.

Painless hitching

Just about anyone who tows a trailer has likely experienced the absolute agony of accidentally striking their shin or kneecap on the hitch ball portion. Preventing such pain involves the installation of the Shin Shield. This simple protective device is made from a special polymer compound that the manufacturer claims will remain soft from -40 C to 65 C. Shin Shield securely installs between the ball and most standard 2.5-inch (class five) receivers that are rated for up to 17,500 pounds (7,950 kilograms) of gross trailer weight and 1,700 pounds (770 kilograms) of tongue weight. Shin Shield is available for \$30 US from shin-shield.com.



Rust buster

Removing rust from corroded car parts usually involves soaking these items in some highly toxic chemical stew, then scraping them with a wire brush to get them clean to repaint. Metal Rescue is a greener, water-based solution that the manufacturer states will start to work in mere minutes on even the most corroded part and will finish most jobs in a few hours. But the best part is that you can use your bare hands (no heavy rubber gloves required) when working with this non-toxic product that does the job without the use of solvents or acids. Metal Rescue will also not remove the paint from any metal surface. Prices start at about \$8 US for an eight-ounce bottle, \$25 US for a one-gallon jug (3.8 litres) and \$100 US for five-gallons. Visit metalrescue.com.



Let there be light

Getting light into tight spots used to be virtually impossible. But the folks at Striker appear to have solved the problem with their FLEXiT light system. The unit's unique silicone pad contains 16 wide-angle LED (light-emitting diode) bulbs that can be set to low, medium or high output. You can bend, fold, twist and shape the pad in whatever configuration is necessary. Or, you can fix the FLEXiT to the floodlight position with the attached stand. Included are two AA batteries, two magnets to secure the pad to a metal object and a loop for hanging the lights. The FLEXiT Light is priced at \$22.50 US and is available at striker1.com.



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Fill 'er up with premium ... plutonium that is

Autopilot. With the success of The Curiosity on Mars should we now look at nuclear power as a viable car fuel source?



AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

Earlier this month, NASA's latest robotic rover, Curiosity, celebrated its first anniversary of roaming around the planet Mars. So far it's been a great road trip.

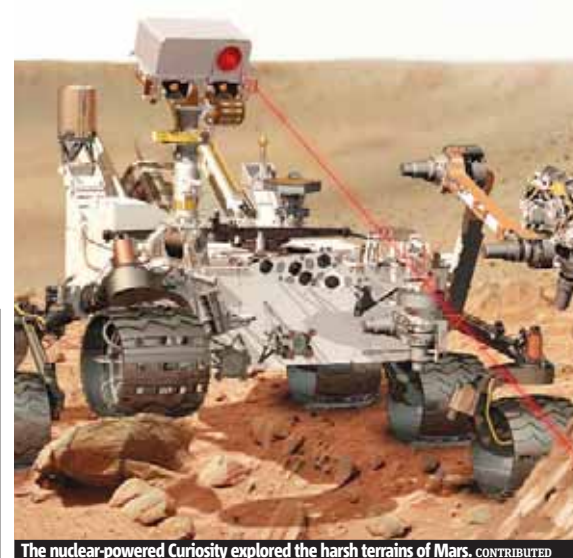
No tickets. Lots of fun photo opportunities. Lots of great rocks to pulverize with its lasers. Only one temporary breakdown.

For sure, the technology on this thing is just out of

this world. Consider the six wheels, each with an independent drive motor, the instruments that can analyze rock formations, before and after the lasers zap them into a state of plasma, and the powerful jack-hammer located at the end of its six-foot robotic arm.

But the technology that really gets me going is its power source, otherwise

known as the Multi-Mission Radioisotope Thermoelectric Generator (MMRTG). Basically it's a nuclear thing, using non-weapon grade plutonium known as Plutonium 238. The heat given off by plutonium's alpha rays can be used to keep things warm, and can be converted into lots and lots of electricity. The other two Mars rovers, Spirit and Oppor-



The nuclear-powered Curiosity explored the harsh terrains of Mars. CONTRIBUTED

tunity, run on solar energy, but NASA felt nuclear was the better option for Curiosity's rock-analyzing mission, which called for power-hungry tools, and lots of traveling in winter (dark and cold) and through dusty territory (dust on solar panels).

NASA also uses an MMRTG for fuelling the probe currently on its way to Pluto.

Look, I'm no nuclear scientist, I couldn't even play one on regional cable TV programming, but I'm pretty sure Curiosity is the only "vehicle" ever successfully fuelled by plutonium. Sure there are lots of nuclear-powered submarines and air craft carriers out there, and there's always the time-travelling DeLorean in Back to the Future, but after that the pickings get smaller than atom particles.

I don't believe Curiosity's "Check Engine" light came on once. Should we reconsider atomic cars, now that Curiosity has been so successful and reliable?

Well, to keep the discussion going, here's a short list

of the pros and cons of powering future vehicles with plutonium-based thermoelectric generators:

Let's go plutonium!

- Best name ever for a vehicle fuel.
- No more fill-ups. Plutonium 238 has a half-life of 87.7 years, and should outlast your Subaru no problem.
- Comes in a lovely shade of glowing apricot.

Let's not go plutonium!

- Drivers and passengers need to wear heavy and uncomfortable anti-radiation armour.
- It's pricey and rare. NASA's looking for \$30 million to re-start Plutonium 238 production, to top up dwindling supplies. NASA hopes to make three pounds per year.
- Could lead to more car thefts, as plutonium is fantastically and historically coveted by nefarious international villain types.
- Auto technicians at Canadian Tire will require additional training.

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[illegible]

The 1958 Ford Nucleon. PHOTO: FORD MOTOR COMPANY

Apps to suit any road trip

While summer is half over, it is still prime road-trip season. As any parent knows, an iPad is a great accessory to keep the kids occupied in the back seat, staving off the unavoidable "are we there yet?" inquiries. There are also plenty of apps that will serve as useful resources on your way out of town. Here's a quick roundup of some new and favourite road trip apps.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Ohai (\$4.99, iOS)

This is a slick travel journal app, which allows you to check in, post photos to social networks or keep them private, and keeps all your memories in what they call a digital book. It is easy to navigate and does look great, although there are a few caveats. At \$4.99 it is a little expensive, and it requires an App.net membership, which is like a central hub supporting many different app services, and is free to join, although there are paid tiers for more functionality. If you feel you already have enough social networks, this could understandably be a deal breaker.



Gas Buddy (Free, iOS & Android)

Gas Buddy (Free, iOS and Android): For more than just road trips, this is a great app that you can use to compare prices at gas stations based on your location. As the prices are crowd-sourced, you can sign up for a membership to the site and win points if you start engaging with the community, but you can skip it and just feel smart saving cash on fuel.



Road Trip Scavenger Hunt (\$0.99, iOS)

The game as old as the road gets a modern update with an app that helps keep the hours occupied when the miles are getting long. An iPhone-only app, you can set up the players' names to keep score and customize the game to hunt for words, objects or both. There's even a skip function, as when, say, "pig" comes up while you are in the middle of an urban area. The two selling points are coming up with things to look for and electronically keeping track of the scores for bragging rights later. Other game app options include Road Trip Bingo and Family Car Games, which offers instructions on more than 100 games that you can play on the road.



Hotel Tonight (Free, iOS & Android)

Sometimes we expect we'll make it farther on the road than we actually do, and when it's time to call it a night, we're in need of a last-minute hotel. Hotel Tonight is one of a number of apps that show deals on hotel rooms in the vicinity. It seems particularly good for cities, but we like that it's free and gives a good range of hotel options, from budget to swanky.



Drive Assist (\$2.99, iOS)

While plenty of cars are creating app-friendly dashboards — Ford and GM have opened theirs up to developers — if you have an older car, this iPad app is a neat all-in-one dashboard that might have you looking for a front seat iPad dock. It has a speedometer, compass, trip computer, maps and even a music player, all combined in a good-looking package.



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Loyalty decides: Sierra or Silverado?

Autoknow. The choice you make between these twins separated at birth probably has to do with one thing: what you bought last time

JEFF
MELNYCHUK
wheellbasemedia.com

From pretty much any angle, they look the same. They're virtually twins, after all.

And in an age where "badge engineering" is a dinosaur marketing principle that has even killed a few vehicle lines, you have to ask the obvious question: why bother with a Chevrolet Silverado as well as GMC Sierra when they're so similar.

After all, Ram has just one truck (there's no Chrysler pickup) and Ford's F-series — the reigning sales champ — is also all by itself, despite a little dabbling by Lincoln over the years.

The answer is woven into the DNA of every truck buyer: loyalty. Truck buyers seldom switch brands, even from Chevy to GMC. And suggest a Silverado to a GMC Sierra owner? Best of luck. Might as well try to pitch a Ford or a Ram.

Interestingly, the sales numbers favour the Silverado in the United States, but they do a flip here in Canada with the Sierra coming out on top. This is attributed to Canadians having full-on and exclusive GMC dealerships long before Americans, which helped build the brand north of the border.

Regardless, they're both alive and well in the two countries and there appears to be no plans to merge the

Make yours a deluxe

Silverado High Country.

At the other end of the extensive list of trim levels is a new Silverado High Country model intended to tap into the lucrative luxury-truck market of well-to-do ranchers and city slickers. The interior is bathed in beautiful "saddle brown" leather and the outside is treated to big shiny wheels and a special grille. There's also a full load of crash-mitigation electronics and a big stereo.

Sierra Denali.

Relative to the High Country, the Sierra Denali still rates higher, but at the very least, Silverado fans have a new option above the LTZ, a truck that costs around \$45,000. The standard engine for the High Country is the 5.3, with the 6.2 being optional.

two, despite similarities that go much deeper than their metal skins.

The most tangible upgrades over the previous models can be found under their hoods. There's a trio of new engines that begins with a 4.3-litre V6. The displacement might have you thinking it's the same old cast-iron V6 as always, but it's actually a new all-aluminum direct-fuel injection design with much more power (285 horses) and better fuel performance. Chevrolet could have saved a little confusion by calling it a 4.4 or some other number, but there you go.

Off-roading with this



The GMC Sierra (above), is pretty much the mirror image of the Silverado. ALL IMAGES WHEELBASE

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The twins can tow big loads, like a caravan, with ease.

Twins make towing a joy

- The best part of towing is how easy it is. There's enough electronics on board to keep the trailer behaving, even when you do something pretty stupid behind the wheel. The unnerving part is that the truck is so stable that you can actually forget that you're towing

anything at all. You might let the speed creep up or forget to brake early or to allow for that extra trailer length on a lane change.

- For towing really big loads (up to 12,000 pounds/5,450 kilograms), you'll need the 6.2-litre V8.



The Chevrolet High Country offers the luxury experience

engine in a four-door crew-cab Silverado is a piece of cake and acceleration with the standard six-speed automatic transmission, while underwhelming, is certainly acceptable. The new entry-level 5.3-litre V8 also has direct fuel injection and

makes 355 horsepower and 383 pound-feet of torque. Later in the year, you'll be able to get what amounts to the new Corvette sports-car's 6.2-litre V8 (rated at about 420 horsepower and 450 pound-feet of torque in the truck).

Lashing a 24-foot (7.4-metre) travel-trailer to a new GMC Sierra with the 5.3 revealed a few things on a 100-kilometre drive through the foothills of the Rockies, south of Calgary. The tow rating depends as much on the axle gearing as the engine. With a 5.3-equipped truck geared for fuel economy and not acceleration, the Sierra lost speed driving up steeper hills with the trailer in tow, so if you have a trailer, be conscious to get a steeper axle ratio (a 3.42:1 instead of the 3.08:1, for example).

Functionally, the Sierra/Silverado twins have some neat tricks. The box, which can be pretty hard on the knees and shins when get-

ting in and out, has built-in bumper steps (called CornerStep) and grab handles. It's a small detail that really means something without adding more cost to the truck, since they're just notches in the existing hardware. Another is the new option of a six foot by six inch box (198 centimetres), which is 10 inches (25 centimetres) longer than the standard box.

What's truly remarkable, however, is how quiet and well-turned-out the twins really are. The so-called base

Silverado "Work Truck" would pass for a mid-line model five years ago and was a great road companion for a five-hour highway stint. Honestly, this is all the truck most people would ever need or want.

Sierra or Silverado, which would you buy? Well, without very obvious differences between the Chevy and the GMC, other than the grille/headlights, it's likely that brand-loyal buyers will stay put and so will General Motors with its twins.

Horoscopes

Aries

March 21 - April 20

You may have big plans and big expectations but keep a sense of perspective. If you let your enthusiasm race too far ahead, you may make a mistake that slows you right down again. Get the balance right.

Taurus

April 21 - May 21

You have what it takes to succeed but there is a touch of doubt in your mind that keeps you from giving your all. What happens today will remind you that doubt can be overcome.

Gemini

May 22 - June 21

You are finding it hard to believe in yourself but it doesn't matter. What counts is that others believe in you, and they do. Take it easy today. You have nothing to prove.

Cancer

June 22 - July 23

Someone you meet socially will praise you to the skies and tell you what a fine human being you are but your intuition warns they are not to be trusted. It's a trick to lull you into a false sense of security.

Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

What you are worrying about is of no importance. Cosmic activity in the most sensitive area of your chart may make it seem as if the world is against you but it's not true.

Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

Someone in a position of power will try to force you to do something you don't agree with today but they won't succeed. Stand your ground and refuse to do anything that does not meet your standards.

Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

It's good to be reminded of your limits and what happens over the next 24 hours will stop you in your tracks and balance out a mistake of some kind. Next time, don't go over the top so quickly.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

Let your rivals and enemies have the last word today. The yapping they do has very little effect, so why waste your time reacting to it? Save your energy and put it to better use.

Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

There is nothing wrong with your plans but some people will find fault with them. Ignore the critics and carry on as you are. That will annoy them far more than if you get involved in a war of words.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

Someone you have to deal with today won't be in the best of moods but don't let their negativity rub off on you. When they see that their doom and gloom act is having no effect they will give up on it.

Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

According to the planets what other people tell you is "the truth" and what is really the truth are two different things. Take everything you are told today, especially by "experts", with a large pinch of salt.

Pisces

Feb. 20 - March 20

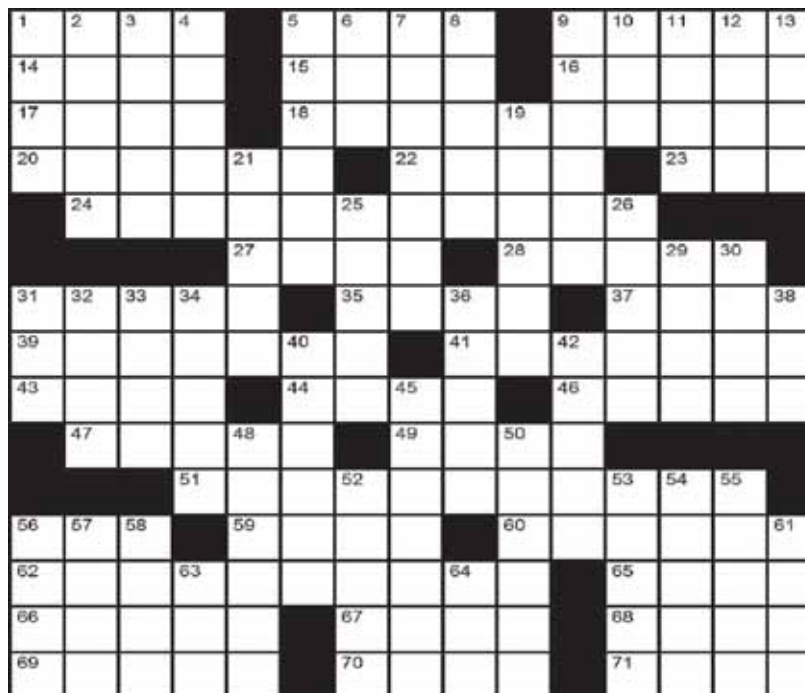
Try not to say anything that might be taken the wrong way by people who have the power to make life tough for you.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

Across

1. "Best Song ____" by One Direction
5. Cosmetic surgery procedure, commonly
9. Flavour
14. Cleave
15. "Walk Like ____" by The Four Seasons
16. Extreme
17. E-Mail junk
18. Montreal's Expo 67, for one: 2 wds.
20. Boredom
22. Nautical ropes
23. Driver's li'l navigation aid
24. Like #48-Down's roof
27. Chew at
28. Lone Star State resident
31. Dishonour
35. Michael Jackson's second wife, Debbie ____
37. Particular plant
39. Guernica artist
41. Skirt feature
43. Mr. Anthopoulos, Toronto Blue Jays GM
44. Village People hit
46. Furry mammal that can swim
47. Baseball base
49. Rock group's blasters
51. Chute ____ (Very high waterfall in Quebec)
56. Sibling to sis'
59. Equipment
60. Refuge
62. Video game series: 2 wds.
65. Create
66. Helicopter part
67. Biblical birthright trader
68. Some athletes, e.g.
69. MuchMusic tro-



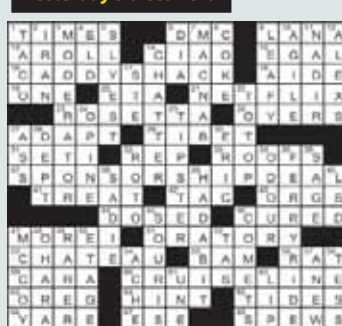
- phies, commonly
70. Quebec singer Mr. Simard
71. Feathered farm females

- Down
1. Once, poetically
2. Venomous snake
3. Sidestep
4. Send payment
5. Sheriff, for one
6. Texting point-of-

- view
7. Movie sequel installment: 2 wds.
8. Songbook standard: "It's ____ Paper Moon"
9. Skirmish
10. The planet Melmac alien
11. Male deer
12. Stumble
13. Sense organs

- in Sumatra in Indonesia)
34. Men's magazine; or, saying
36. Classic toys company, ____
38. Always, in verse
40. Locale on Cape Breton Island
42. Ten Commandments receiver
45. Alberta city southeast of Edmonton
48. Toronto Blue Jays home, ____ Centre
50. Czech Republic capital
52. Giver's opposite
53. Mythical maiden
54. Ireland's County ____
55. ____ Gold (Type of potato)
56. Apartment listing abbr.
57. Leeway
58. According to a-ha, where the sun always shines: 2 wds.
61. Predicament
63. Tree in Hawaii
64. Grandma

Yesterday's Crossword

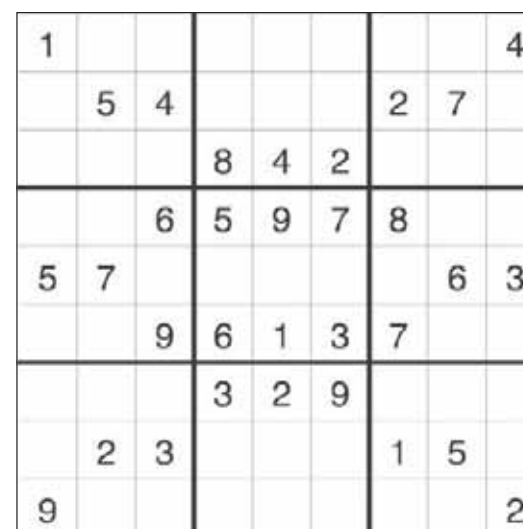


Sudoku

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku



Weather

TODAY



MAX: 27°
MIN: 16°

THURSDAY



MAX: 27°
MIN: 17°

FRIDAY



MAX: 32°
MIN: 15°



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FINANCE APR

0.9%*

60 MONTHS

¹Taxes extra.

LEASE APR

1.9%*

48 MONTHS

THE 2013 E 300 4MATIC™.
TOTAL PRICE¹: \$60,940**

FINANCE APR

0.9%*

60 MONTHS

¹Taxes extra.

LEASE APR

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36 MONTHS

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David Morris Fine Cars, 17407-111 Avenue, 780-484-9000, davidmorrisfinecars.com

Mercedes-Benz STAR DEALER



© 2013 Mercedes-Benz Canada Inc. 2013 B 250/2013 C 300 Sedan with Premium & Sport packages/2013 E 350 4MATIC™ shown above, National MSRP \$29,900/\$43,540 (base \$39,990, plus optional Premium Package valued at \$2,350 and optional Sport Package valued at \$1,200)/\$66,300. **Total price of \$32,540/\$46,180/\$60,940 and down payment include freight/PDI of \$1,995, dealer admin fee of \$495, air-conditioning levy of \$100, EHF tires, filters, batteries of \$16, PPSA up to \$27.80 and AMVIC fee of \$6.25. *Lease offers based on the 2013 B 250/2013 C 300 4MATIC™ No Charge Premium (\$2,350) and Sport (\$1,200) Packages/2013 E 300 4MATIC™ Sedan available only through Mercedes-Benz Financial Services on approved credit for a limited time. Lease example based on \$298/\$328/\$568 per month for 48/48/36 months. Down payment of \$5,190/\$8,040/\$9,040 plus security deposit of \$300/\$400/\$600 and applicable taxes due at lease inception. MSRP starting at \$29,900/\$43,540/\$58,300. ²Total discount of \$4,000 on the C 300 4MATIC™ Sedan, thereof \$1,200 applied to Sport Package, \$2,350 applied to Premium Package, with balance of \$450 applied to down payment. Lease APR of 2.9%/1.9%/2.9% applies. Total obligation is \$19,745/\$24,156/\$30,059. 18,000 km/year allowance (\$0.20/km/\$0.20/km/\$0.30km for excess kilometres applies). Finance example is based on a 60-month term with a finance APR of 0.9% and an MSRP of \$29,900/\$43,540/\$58,300. Monthly payment is \$459/\$606/\$818 (excluding taxes) with \$5,630/\$6,639/\$8,470 down payment. Cost of borrowing is \$620/\$819/\$1,105 for a total obligation of \$33,132/\$42,971/\$57,518. Vehicle licence, insurance, and registration are extra. Dealer may lease or finance for less. Offers may change without notice and cannot be combined with any other offers. See your authorized Mercedes-Benz dealer for details or call the Mercedes-Benz Customer Relations Centre at 1-800-387-0100. Offer ends August 31, 2013.